



# City Administrator's Report

February 2009

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.*

James L. Armstrong  
[jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)  
(805) 564-5301

Tony Ruggieri  
[truggieri@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:truggieri@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)  
(805) 564-5311

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	1
Key Meetings .....	2
Community Events.....	2
Flags on State Street .....	2
City Administrator's Office.....	2
City Departments Prepare Proposals to Meet \$9 Million Budget Shortfall. ....	2
Inside Santa Barbara.....	3
Administrative Services Department.....	3
Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) Annual Filing.....	3
Airport Department.....	3
2008 Passenger Traffic Up Slightly. ....	3
Digital Screen Advertising at the Terminal. ....	3
Community Development Department.....	4
Report from the Subcommittee on Homelessness.....	4
Planning Commission Update. ....	4
Finance Department .....	4
December Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Down 10.7%. ....	4
Library Department .....	5
Friends of the Carpinteria Library Donation. ....	5
Adult Literacy.....	5
AmeriCorps Volunteers. ....	5
Junior League of Santa Barbara Fundraiser for Children's Library. ....	5
Genealogy Research Class.....	5
Video Schmideo Donates DVDs to Library. ....	6
Parks and Recreation .....	6
Volunteers Stop and Smell the Roses.....	6
Westside Community Center to Get New Playground. ....	6
Storm Water Management Program Goes Into Effect.....	6
Youth Council Holds Speakout on Graffiti. ....	6
Santa Barbara High School Student wins Leadership Award .....	6
Bring Your Valentine to the Dance Floor.....	7
Santa Barbara Golf Club Offers Twilight Special. ....	7

Spring Break Camps Open for Registration .....	7
Police Department .....	7
D.A.R.E. to Graduate. ....	7
Police Recognize Outstanding work.....	7
Share the Love Adoption Event.....	8
Public Works Department .....	8
Pedestrian Friendly Projects around Santa Barbara. ....	8
Waterfront Department .....	9
City Pier, Travel Lift Pier, and Stearns Wharf Pile Driving Project. ....	9
Harbor Dredging.....	9
Phase 3 of Breakwater Cap Repair Project.....	9

## Key Meetings

### *City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>. City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

## Community Events

### *Share the Love Adoption Event*

Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Lompoc Shelter at 1501 West Central Avenue; Santa Barbara Shelter at 5473 Overpass Road; and the Santa Maria Animal Shelter at 548 West Foster Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adopt a pet in need of a loving, permanent home.

### *President's Day Holiday*

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, City offices closed.

## Flags on State Street

### *Black History Month*

February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>

### *Santa Barbara Navy League*

February 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

### *Opera Santa Barbara*

February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>

## City Administrator's Office

***City Departments Prepare Proposals to Meet \$9 Million Budget Shortfall.*** City departments are currently preparing their proposed budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. The City of Santa Barbara is facing an estimated \$9 million funding shortfall in the Fiscal Year 2010 General Fund budget, approximately 8% of the City's General Fund. City departments are

proposing to balance the budget with a combination of the following measures: 1) department budget adjustments; 2) citywide labor measures such as a mandatory furlough; 3) structural budget changes; and 4) delays to capital improvements.

In January, City Administrator Jim Armstrong met with City employees to discuss the City's financial condition and how it may impact them. The City's Fiscal Year 2010 Recommended Budget is tentatively scheduled for presentation to Council on April 21, 2009, marking the beginning of Council and public review. Budget review meetings will be held with the City Council through June, culminating in the Council's adoption of the budget by June 30th.

***Inside Santa Barbara.*** *Inside Santa Barbara* is City TV Channel 18's award-winning, monthly news magazine show. In this episode, viewers learn about an innovative brush clearance and hazardous fuel reduction method through a local company called "Brush Goats 4 Hire," aspiring youth filmmakers and red carpet highlights of the 24<sup>th</sup> Santa Barbara International Film Festival, the on-going series about City Advisory Groups, the restoration of Celebrate Santa Barbara murals, and the City Parks and Recreation Department's Wheelchair Tennis Program. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10 p.m. You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* on-line by visiting the City's web site at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## **Administrative Services Department**

***Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) Annual Filing.*** Each year, the Political Reform Act requires most state and local government officials, and employees to publicly disclose their personal assets and income. The deadline for filing Form 700's is April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The City Clerk's Office is currently preparing to distribute the forms to City officials and employees whose position is included in the City's Conflict of Interest Code. City officials, advisory group members, and employees must complete the form as required by the Fair Political Practices Commission. Additional information related to the Conflict of Interest Code can be found on the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov) and at the Fair Political Practices Commission's website at: [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov).

## **Airport Department**

***2008 Passenger Traffic Up Slightly.*** Overall, the annual passenger count for 2008 was up 0.4% over 2007. During 2008 the highest average passenger loads were aboard the American Eagle flights to Dallas/Ft. Worth (86.5%), United Express flights to Denver (83.9%), and Horizon Air's flights to Seattle (82.8%). Of the top 25 international service airports ranked for passenger traffic, Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) has non-stop service to seven of them: Los Angeles (5<sup>th</sup>), Dallas Ft. Worth (7<sup>th</sup>), Denver (9<sup>th</sup>), Las Vegas (16<sup>th</sup>), San Francisco (19<sup>th</sup>), Phoenix (20<sup>th</sup>), and Seattle (25<sup>th</sup>). However, airline passenger traffic at SBA decreased in December 2008 as compared to December 2007. In December 2008, the Airport served 61,809 passengers, a decrease of 9.4% when compared to the December 2007 passenger traffic count of 68,246.

***Digital Screen Advertising at the Terminal.*** Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) is now offering passengers unique destination-specific information on large digital screens at all boarding gates. The Airport has partnered with ProDIGIQ, Inc., a start-up company whose founders are

UCSB graduates, to introduce this innovative program that incorporates cutting-edge technology. The digital media programming features weather, current events, attractions, hotels, dining, spa, and golf courses about destination cities from SBA. The program allows participating organizations to update content in real time through an easy-to-use website.

## **Community Development Department**

***Report from the Subcommittee on Homelessness.*** In 2008, the City Council established a Council Subcommittee to study issues related to homeless services and neighborhood impacts. This committee was charged with making recommendations to the City Council, with input from the community, on strategies to address five identified issues, including the need for increased coordination between City Police and homeless street outreach staff from various support agencies to reduce calls for police service; and aggressive panhandling.

A series of community forums were held to gather input from City staff, local businesses, homeless service providers, community members, and homeless persons. Two working groups dealt specifically with better coordination of outreach workers and panhandling. The subcommittee's recommendations include adopting a City ordinance that is more restrictive on solicitation and continuing to utilize Police Department deployment strategies to best meet the immediate demands of the community, and continuing and expanding the Restorative Policing Program to work with homeless persons with mental illness.

***Planning Commission Update.*** In February, the Planning Commission will meet on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The Commission will hold two environmental hearings for proposed Mitigated Negative Declarations: 124 Los Aguajes for a three-unit condominium project and at 900 Calle de los Amigos for the Valle Verde Retirement Facility Expansion project.

## **Finance Department**

***December Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Down 10.7%.*** The December TOT revenue fell 10.7% from December 2007. This double-digit decline comes on the heels of an 11.7% decline in November and is the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year decline. Through the first six months of the fiscal year, TOT revenue is down 0.4%. City staff is now projecting that TOT revenue will end the fiscal year approximately \$1.1 million below budget.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%	\$ 1,631,965	1.2%
Aug	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%	1,820,811	10.6%
Sept	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%	1,196,294	-1.8%
Oct	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%	1,049,515	-2.4%
Nov	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%	769,901	-11.6%
Dec	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%	597,812	-10.7%
Jan	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%		
Feb	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%		
Mar	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%	1,000,573	4.9%		
April	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%	958,282	-8.5%		
May	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%	1,118,049	6.2%		
June	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%	1,262,909	1.0%		
<b>FY Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,032,372</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>\$ 12,691,167</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>\$ 12,935,553</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>\$ 7,066,300</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ 11,504,200</b>		<b>\$ 12,630,600</b>		<b>\$ 13,581,500</b>		<b>\$ 13,334,000</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).								

## Library Department

**Friends of the Carpinteria Library Donation.** At the January board meeting of the Friends of the Carpinteria Library, the group presented a \$20,000 check to the Carpinteria Branch Library for the purchase of books, DVDs, recorded books, and other library materials.

**Adult Literacy.** The Library's Adult Literacy program recently received a grant of \$2,500 from the Allergan Foundation. The grant will support parent-child literacy programs at several branch libraries. The grant proposal was written by one of the Literacy program's valued 2008 AmeriCorps members.

**Americorps Volunteers.** For the sixth year in a row, the Library is participating in a statewide initiative that places AmeriCorps members in Literacy programs. Three new volunteers began adult literacy tutoring in January: a retired Naval officer, a retired reading teacher, and a Santa Barbara native and recent college graduate. Known as the "domestic Peace Corps," AmeriCorps is a federal program in which individuals offer a year of service to local communities. Americorps volunteers receive a small monthly living allowance from the Corporation for National Service and an education award at the end of their year of service.

**Junior League of Santa Barbara Fundraiser for Children's Library.** The Junior League of Santa Barbara will host a Gala fundraiser on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Central Library. The funds raised will go to a new children's room. The theme of the Gala fundraiser is "Once Upon a Library Night...A Child's Dream." The event includes a reception and silent auction, followed by dinner and a live auction. For more information visit the website at: [www.jlsantabarbara.org](http://www.jlsantabarbara.org).

**Genealogy Research Class.** A local genealogist and Santa Barbara City College Adult Education instructor held a class for advanced users of Ancestry® Library Edition, an online

database now available on computers at library system branches. The database has unparalleled coverage of the United States and the United Kingdom, including census, vital, church, court, and immigration records, as well as record collections from Canada and other areas.

**Video Schmideo Donates DVDs to Library.** The Library received a gift of 700 DVDs from the owner of Video Schmideo. The store, which was located in Victoria Court, closed in December. Many of the videos are suitable for addition to the Library's collection, and the others will be sold to generate revenue for Library collections.

## Parks and Recreation

**Volunteers Stop and Smell the Roses.** On Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 110 volunteers and City Parks Division staff worked together to prune the roses in the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden. Almost 1600 roses were pruned. Well-known and respected rosarian Dan Bifano and Rose Garden volunteer coordinator Robert Funai provided expert rose pruning instruction for many of the first-time volunteers. Thanks to all the volunteers, the Rose Garden will once again be in full bloom by the end of March.

**Westside Community Center to Get New Playground.** The Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of replacing the playground at the Westside Community Center at 423 West Victoria Street. This playground serves a large part of the Westside neighborhood, both east and west of the freeway. The new equipment is designed for five to twelve-year-old children and will be spacious and airy with swings, a slide and a unique "balance course" that encourages stretching and upper body fitness. The new playground will also include state-of-the-art rubber surfacing to increase the safety level. The site is currently under construction and is expected to be open in March.

**Storm Water Management Program Goes Into Effect.** The City's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) was approved by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and became effective on January 1, 2009. Preparation of the SWMP is required by the Federal Clean Water Act. The purpose of the SWMP is to reduce the discharge of pollutants carried by water runoff from construction sites, business and residential activities, and new development projects. The Storm Water Best Management Practices Guidance Manual is posted on the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

**Youth Council Holds Speakout on Graffiti.** The Santa Barbara Youth Council hosted a Youth/Community Speak Out on January 22<sup>nd</sup> called "Graffiti: Art or Vandalism." The speak out was attended by approximately 60 adults and teens who listened to a panel of representatives from the Police Department, a local artist, *Looking Good Santa Barbara*, and Teen Court. The panel spoke and listened to comments from the audience on the challenges of graffiti in our community; solutions such as an official graffiti wall and the misconceptions and differences between graffiti art and tagging.

**Santa Barbara High School Student wins Leadership Award.** The Downtown Organization, in cooperation with the Youth Council and Teen Programs, held its annual luncheon to recognize several outstanding community individuals. Santa Barbara High School student Fibiola Gonzalez was honored for the Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Award. Fibiola

has a 4.0 grade point average, has earned 400 hours of community service, and is president of the Santa Barbara High School chapter of Future Leaders of America.

***Bring Your Valentine to the Dance Floor.*** U.S. and British champion ballroom dancer Nigel Clarke is offering a two-for-one special for ballroom dance classes. Mambo, Rumba and Waltz ballroom dance classes are being offered in February. The classes are held Monday and Thursday evenings at the Carrillo Recreation Center. No partner is necessary and beginners are welcome. A discount coupon is needed for this special promotion and is available at: [www.resolutionsb.com](http://www.resolutionsb.com).

***Santa Barbara Golf Club Offers Twilight Special.*** Take advantage of the warm, sunny winter weather and play nine holes of golf after 2 p.m. for a special price at "Muni." Weekday rates are \$15 and weekends \$18 (\$22/\$25 for non-residents). This Super Twilight rate includes a range token good for 25 balls and ends on March 9. Tee times can be made on the internet at: [www.sbgolf.com](http://www.sbgolf.com) or call 687-7087.

***Spring Break Camps Open for Registration.*** The Santa Barbara School District spring break is from March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the City is offering a variety of different camps and sports clinics for kids aged 6 to 17. The Great Escape Camp for first through sixth grades is a full-day, multi-activity camp based at McKinley School. Half-day camps include Skate Clinic, Cheer Skills and Dance Thrills, Archery, Kidz Love Soccer, Volleypop Volleyball, Doggone Fun, Art from the Heart, Ceramics, and Ballet. Register online at: [www.sbparksandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparksandrecreation.com) or call 564-5418 for more information.

## **Police Department**

***D.A.R.E. to Graduate.*** The Santa Barbara Police Department held their latest Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) graduation on January 14<sup>th</sup> at the Arlington Theatre. This graduating group of over 300 fifth and sixth grade students from seven schools joins rank with 17,800 others who have graduated since 1987. In addition to discussing the perils of drug use and violence, the DARE Program teaches responsibility and how to make good choices. Each student composed an essay explaining what they have learned. The essays were judged and a winner selected from each class and school. The Santa Barbara High School Jazz Band provided music to this free public event. Seven students were selected as School essay winners and seven students were selected as Class essay winners.

***Police Recognize Outstanding work.*** On January 28<sup>th</sup>, many gathered at the Cabrillo Pavillion Arts Center to honor Santa Barbara Police Department's finest during the annual Employee Recognition and Reserve Officer Banquet. This banquet recognizes full-time sworn and non-sworn personnel and reserve officers for outstanding performance.

Reserve Officers were recognized for their outstanding performance and countless volunteer hours to the organization. Reserve Officers recognized this year were Reserve Officer Howard Giles, who received the Lieutenant R.E. Bond Award for the most volunteered hours (466 hours); Reserve Officer Colman Kwong, who received the Top Gun Award for his marksmanship; Officer Rashun Drayton, who was given the title of Sworn Officer of the Year, selected by the Reserve Officer Corps.

Employees recognized this year were Sergeant David Henderson as Supervisor of the Year; Officer Douglas Klug as Sworn Employee of the Year; Nicole Hall as Civilian Employee of the Year; Pastor Charles Reed as Citizen of the Year; and Lieutenant Ralph Molina with Special Recognition for eight years of service to the Employee Recognition Committee.

This year Police Chief Cam Sanchez awarded the Chief's Meritorious Service Award to those officers who had been activated and deployed by the military to Iraq or Afghanistan. Those recipients were: Officer Kevin Rhyne, Major, United States Air Force Reserve; Officer Matthew Tonello, Staff Sergeant, United States Marine Corps Reserve; and Officer Michael Lazarus, Staff Sergeant, United States Army Reserve. Officer Justin Cruz, Sergeant, Army National Guard was awarded via satellite, since he is currently serving in Iraq.

In addition, this year the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve awarded Chief Camerino Sanchez with the Patriotic Employer Award for his support of those officers activated and deployed due to the Iraq War.

***Share the Love Adoption Event.*** Members of the public are encouraged to share their love on Valentine's Day by adopting a pet during the Share the Love Adoption Event. The event will be held on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at any of the three local animal shelters: Lompoc Shelter at 1501 West Central Avenue; Santa Barbara Shelter at 5473 Overpass Road; and the Santa Maria Animal Shelter at 548 West Foster Road. The event will include door prizes, adoption incentives, and discounted adoption fees. These pets are in need of a loving, permanent home.

## **Public Works Department**

***Pedestrian Friendly Projects around Santa Barbara.*** Six projects were recently completed to encourage foot traffic and bicycling around town:

- Plaza Vera Cruz Improvements: The oldest park in the City now has infrastructure improvements that preserve the open space, including concrete sidewalks, park benches, light poles, and planter beds.
- The Junipero Pedestrian Bridge: This footbridge was not inviting due to a lack of lighting; so lighting was installed on the bridge and pathway to increase accessibility and safety at night.
- Mission Street Underpass: Retaining walls were built to create new bike lanes, plus improved sidewalks, landscaping, streetlights, signals, and benches were added.
- Bohnett Park: Once a dead end at Victoria Street, but one of the City's most unique public parks, the Park renovations include a whimsical house and unique art elements, such as a concrete couch, porch swing, and kitchen sink. More drought-tolerant plants were also added.
- Carrillo Hill: Enhancing the pedestrian link between downtown and the Mesa, the makeover has increased safety and accessibility. After adding access ramps,



landscaping, retaining walls, sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, more people are out using this friendlier footpath for both walking and cycling.

- **Cabrillo Boulevard sidewalk:** The gateway to our community, and site for the weekly Arts and Crafts Show each Sunday, the entire sidewalk was replaced from Anacapa to Milpas Streets. The improvements were done incrementally to minimize impacts and include new benches, trash cans and recycling bins, decorative ironwork, and landscaping.

## Waterfront Department

***City Pier, Travel Lift Pier, and Stearns Wharf Pile Driving Project.*** This year's annual Stearns Wharf Pile Driving Project is moving along quickly. The Schock Construction Company has now completed the City pier and travel lift pier facilities in the harbor and has now moved their operations over to Stearns Wharf with construction expected to be completed by the end of February.

***Harbor Dredging.*** The fall cycle dredging of the harbor channel was completed November 2008, removing 51,000 cubic meters of sand, the least amount of material dredged for many years. Spring cycle dredging is scheduled to begin in late February 2009 with adequate funds to complete the project.

***Phase 3 of Breakwater Cap Repair Project.*** The Breakwater Cap Repair Project involves replacing the final 18 panels at the east end of the breakwater. The project is scheduled to begin in March 2009 and should be completed by mid-June. The public will be allowed access up to the construction area with the exception of periodic movement of equipment.